



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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SP 49-2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Original Signed

Mark Frantz, Acting Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

Date: July 15, 2013

RE: Frozen Fruit Products in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast
Programs in School Year 2014-2015

Since 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced the amount of added sugars in packing media for frozen fruits offered to states; however, most of the frozen strawberries, peaches, and apricots offered by USDA currently contain added sugar. The final rule, published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruit served in the NSLP contains no added sugar beginning in School Year (SY) 2012-2013; and requires that frozen fruit served in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) contains no added sugar beginning in SY 2014-2015. This memorandum extends the provisions to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) set forth in the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) memorandum CN# 13-13, published on September 16, 2012.

The new regulation allows for a water (unsweetened) or juice-only frozen fruit pack. However, industry continues to require additional time to reformulate frozen fruit products without added sugar that have a flavor and texture that is acceptable. In addition, due to the growing season, these products must be purchased with a long lead time to be available for schools. Therefore, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP and SBP through SY 2014-2015 (June 30, 2015). This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods, as well as those purchased commercially.

USDA currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages School Food Authorities (SFA) to order those products. Additionally, USDA is continuing to work with industry to offer frozen fruits through USDA Foods that will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order in future years.

In light of the continued product development challenges faced by industry, USDA is currently considering options for a longer term solution. USDA continues to welcome input, from a broad range of program stakeholders and interested parties, regarding the impact of such a solution.

Please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist for questions concerning this guidance. Contact information can be found on the CNP Web homepage once logged into Common Logon.

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